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Encore		1.75
The Movie Channel	,	10.60

Some Premium Services above may require an addressable converter for which there is a separate monthly charge.

# PACKAGE PREMIUM SERVICE PRICES (per month)

Choose any two Premium Services	\$19.00
Choose any three Premium Services	
Choose any four Premium Services	29.00
Choose any five Premium Services	33.00
Add Encore to any Premium Service	1.00

Some Premium Services above may require an addressable converter for which there is a separate monthly charge.

### **PAY-PER-VIEW SERVICES**

With the use of an addressable converter (for which there is a separate monthly charge) you may call the Pay-Per-View 800 # listed to order a movie or special event. The schedule of Pay-Per-View movies and special events (and their prices) is shown on channel 6. For more information call the cable office at 361-7300.

To order a movie or special event on channel 62 call 1-800-597-7781.

To order a movie or special event on channel 66 call 1-800-597-7782.

To order a movie or special event on channel 67 call 1-800-597-7783.

To order a movie or special event on channel 68 call 1-800-597-7784.

#### THE CABLE GUIDE

Plan your cable viewing with this informative and easy to use cable guide mailed to your home (\$1.00 per month).

# **OPTIONAL MUSIC SERVICE AND EQUIPMENT**

DMX (Digital Music Express) - 30 channels of digital quality, commercial free music for your stereo. DMX service includes the cost of the DMX Tuner (\$9.95per month).

# **EQUIPMENT** (per month)

Standard Converter (for non-cable-ready televisions)	\$1.15
Addressable Converter (for some premium channels & PPV)	1.67
Remote Control	13

#### INSTALLATION & REPAIR

Unwired Home Installation (within 125 feet of existing cable plant)	67.26*
Restart/Reconnection Home Installation	33.63*
Additional Outlet Connection at Time of Initial Installation	11.21*

Additional Outlet Connection Requiring Separate Installation	33.63*
Move Cable Outlet	33.63*
Upgrade or Downgrade of Optional Services (Addressable)	2.00*
Upgrade or Downgrade of Optional Services (Non-Addressable)	22.42*
Connect VCR at Time of Initial Installation	11.21*
Connect VCR Requiring Separate Installation	22.42*

# INSTALLATION (Continued)

Installation of DMX at Time of Initial Installation	11.21*
Installation of DMX Requiring Separate Installation	
Purchase A/B Switch	5.00
Installation of A/B Switch at Time of Initial Installation	
Installation of A/B Switch Requiring Separate Installation	
Administrative Fee for delinquent payment	3.00
Non-sufficient Funds Charge	25.00
Unreturned Standard Converter Charge	75.00
Unreturned Addressable Converter Charge	
Unreturned Remote Controls	10.00

Commercial and non-standard installations and other services not listed above will be charged at the Hourly Service Charge. Please call us for more information. Prices do not include franchise fees or taxes. All prices subject to change.

\* Installation and repair prices are formulated by using the Hourly Service Charge (HSC) as prescribed by the Federal Communications Commission formulas multiplied by the average time for each installation activity based upon historical data.

In addition, on October 6, we also may be forced to change some of your local broadcast stations.

According to the new federal law, your local broadcast stations now must grant their "consent" to be carried on our cable system, and can negotiate for payment or other compensation for that consent.

TCI Cablevision of St. Louis has not received consent from KSDK or KMOV.

We want to carry these stations as long as they allow us. That is why we will continue to negotiate with the local stations down to the last minute. If we don't receive their consent by October 6, federal law will require us to discontinue carriage of that station.

If that happens, we will do everything we can to minimize the inconvenience to you. In most cases, you will still be able to watch those local stations off-air while you have cable.

Should you have any questions please call our customer service line at 361-7300. Thank You.

Gregory Schacher General Manager



# TCI Cablevision of St. Louis We've taking television into tomorrow

1940 Delmer 61vd. St. Louis, MO 63106

LOBBY HOURS: MORDAY THROUGH FRIDAY SAM TO 7PM; SATURDAY SAM TO SPM

CUSTOMER SERVICE LINE: 381-7300

ST. LOUIS CITY

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- current movies •
- exclusive videos •
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# **HOW TO ORDER PAY-PER-VIEW**

- 1. CHOOSE the feature you wish to watch. You may order beginning 60 minutes before and up to 15 minutes into the feature.
- 2. ORDER from your home phone. Call:

Request I Channel 58 1-800-597-7782 Request II Channel 59 1-809-597-7783 Spice Channel 60 1-800-597-7784 **Action Channel 54** 1-800-597-7781

3. SIT BACK AND ENJOY!

Special events have a separate 200 number payor fixed along with the brighte event price.

#### SNEAK PREVIEW OF TOO CURREN THAN NIMITE NGS

Questions about pay per view? Call your local cable office at 361-7300 during business hours. All movies are \$3.99° per viewing unless advertised differently. A TCI addressable converter is required for receiving pay-per-view which has an additional monthly charge, 'Does not include franchise tees or tax.

4971 Oakland Avenue

St. Louis, Missouri 63110

Telephone (314) 533-5802

(314) 534-7059

# City of St. Louis

Hon. Freeman Bosley, Jr. Mayor Board of Public Service

Robert F. Henry Jr., P.E. President, Board of Public Service

Larry D. Sione Cable Communications Manager

September 8, 1993

Mr. Gregory Schacher General Manager TCI Cablevision of St. Louis 4940 Delmar Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63108-1659

Communications Division

Dear Mr. Schacher:

The Franchise Agency has received your letter of August 18 informing the City of TCI's proposed September 1 rate and channel line-up changes. While we appreciate TCI's efforts to inform subscribers of upcoming changes relating to the 1992 Cable Act, your letter to subscribers raises concerns that the Agency believes must be promptly addressed and corrected by TCI.

# I. Errors in Price List Disclosure

TCI's new "Products and Services Price List" states that "all prices exclude applicable franchise fees and taxes." This is directly contrary to both the 1992 Cable Act and the FCC's rules. In footnote 1415 of its May 3, 1993 order on rate regulation, the FCC explicitly stated that "an operator may not quote a rate for cable service in advertisements and other promotional materials that does not include" itemized costs like the franchisee fee. Moreover, the FCC specifically agreed with and endorsed the legislative history of the bill itemization provision of the Act, which provides that "a cable operator shall not identify [itemized costs like a franchise fee] as separate costs over and beyond the amount the cable operator charges a subscriber for cable service."

Thus, to the extent that the new "prices" listed in TCI's letter to subscribers do not include franchise fee, then the "prices" listed are simply inaccurate — they are not TCI's new prices at all. TCI's true prices include the franchise fee. This is because the franchise fee is merely one of TCI's costs of doing business, just like the salaries it pays and the payments it makes to programmers. In fact, the franchise fee is the rent TCI pays for its considerable use of City rights-of-ways with miles of its cable plant. TCI can no more represent to the public that its prices do not include the franchise fee than it could, say, list a price for Expanded Basic service and then state that the price listed does not include programming payments made to ESPN or the salaries paid to TCI's employees.

Mr. Gregory Schacher September 8, 1993 Page 2

We note with concern that this is not the first time TCI - St. Louis has attempted to dupe subscribers in this manner when quoting rates. We also note that TCI has been given notice of this deficiency in the past. The City therefore insists that TCI correct the prices listed in its notification letter. Subscribers must be informed of the accurate versions of rate charges, whenever they appear in print, and whenever they are quoted by CSR's.

Furthermore, the Agency hereby requires you to file a corrected version immediately with both the Franchise Authority and this Agency.

# II. The Rate Freeze

Our second concern about the proposed rate and channel line-up change is whether TCI has complied with the FCC's rate freeze. As you know, until November 15, 1993 cable operators are prohibited from increasing the average monthly subscriber bill for regulatable services above the average monthly subscriber bill/rates in effect April 5, 1993.

From the information TCI has provided to date, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed September 1, 1993 price changes actually comply with the rate freeze. Leaving aside the franchise fee disclosure problem discussed above, it appears to us that the combined rate for Basic and Expanded Basic service will increase by approximately 25 cents per month on September 1.

The Agency notes that TCI - St. Louis has significantly reduced the charges for equipment rental - apparently these reductions reflect more realistic (cost-based) amounts than have been charged in the past. According to your letter, regular converter charges have decreased from \$2.00 to \$1.15 (43%); addressable converters from \$5.00 to \$1.67 (67%) and remotes from \$3.00 to \$0.13 (96%).

We also note that the revised installation and repair charge schedule will be higher. For example, increases of 12% for installation charges (\$60.00 to 67.26), re-connections (\$30.00 to 33.63) and additional outlets (\$10.00 to \$11.21). And we are concerned about a new charge of \$11.21 to connect a VCR at time of original installation. While it is true that the FCC will allow such charges to be based on costs, those charges still must comply with the rate freeze. In light of the large amount of these charges, the Agency questions whether they comply with the rate freeze.

Accordingly, the City requests that TCI provide us with an explanation of the underlying assumptions and calculations TCI used to ensure that these proposed September rate changes comply with the FCC's rate freeze.

Mr. Gregory Schacher September 8, 1993 Page 3

# III. Padding of Tiers

We are also troubled by what may be the inappropriate inclusion of certain channels in the Basic and Expanded Basic tier rates. Specifically, we would object to the inclusion of the "Bulletin Board" and "Sneak Preview" channels in the Basic tier rate calculations and the inclusion of the non-subscriber "Government Access" Channel in the Expanded Basic tier rate calculations.

As you know, the FCC's benchmark formula is based on a per-channel benchmark. As a result, the more channels that are on a given tier, the higher the permitted price that may be charged for the tier. However, both the 1992 Cable Act and the FCC rules prohibit any practice that avoids the rate regulation provisions of the Act of the FCC's rules. We believe that any attempt to pad the number of channels in a tier to increase the benchmark rate is a prohibited evasion of the FCC's rules where the added channels are not providing basic or expanded basic services.

TCI's placement of the Sneak Preview and Builetin Board channels on the Basic tier clearly appears to fall into this category. The Sneak Preview channel is nothing but a preview channel for TCI's pay-per-view services, which are, of course, non-regulated premium services. Therefore the Agency views this channel a PPV channel itself, not a basic service or even cable programming service. TCI cannot evade rate regulation by padding its Basic tier (and thus its benchmark rate) with channels like the Sneak Preview channel that are devoted exclusively to premium services.

The Bulletin Board channel presents another disturbing evasion. The most consistent content of this channel in recent weeks has been promotion for pay-per-view events. When local origination programming is carried on this channel, it is usually found to be a duplicate of another LO channel. TCI appears to consider the Bulletin Board channel as a "utility" channel, using it for whatever needs arise. We challenge whether it can be seriously justified as a basic service channel and counted as a service in the tier.

Finally, TCI's listing of the "government access" channel 63 on the Expanded Basic tier represents yet another variety of tier padding. As you know, the "government access" channel is used internally by the City, and subscribers receive no programming over that channel. Because of its Channel 63 placement amongst 4 pay-per-view and 2 premium services, from the subscriber's standpoint, the "government access" channel is indistinguishable from these scrambled premium channels that a subscriber must purchase separately. TCI can no more list the "government access" channel 63 as part of Expanded Basic Package channels 27-53 than it could list a scrambled premium channel in Expanded Basic.

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Mr. Gregory Schacher September 8, 1993 Page 4

Accordingly, we provide notice and an opportunity to cure the following deficiencies: (1) correct the Price List quotes to include franchise fees; (2) provide the City with documentation that the September rate charge complies with the FCC's rate freeze; and (3) eliminate the Sneak Preview, and "Government Access" channels from its benchmark calculations and reduce the prices for Basic and Expanded Basic service by a corresponding amount; (4) provide your justification for the Bulletin Board Barker channel as a basic service channel.

We expect a prompt response. Should TCI fail to respond to this notice in a manner satisfactory to the City, we will have no choice but to pursue all available remedies, including those under federal law, FCC rules, state deceptive trade practices laws, City ordinances and the franchise.

Cordially.

Larry D. Stone

Communications Manager

LDS:jac

cc: Hon. Thomas A. Villa

Robert F. Henry Jr., P.E., President - Board of Public Service

Susan S. Littlefield

Dan DeLaney, TCI Cablevision of Missouri

We're taking television



September 20, 1993

RECEIVED

HAND - PELIVERED

SEP 27 1993

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Larry D. Stone Communications Manager Communications Division Board of Public Service City of St. Louis 4971 Oakland Avenue St. Louis, Missouri 63110

Re: Rate Notification for the City of St. Louis

Dear Mr. Stone:

I am in receipt of your letter dated September 8, 1993, regarding the franchising agency's concerns regarding our customer notice. St. Louis Tele-Communications, Inc. ("SLTCI") strongly denies any allegation that it has violated any law with respect to its rate notification sent to customers on August 20, 1993. I will address each of your concerns below:

# I. Errors in Price List Disclosure

Your letter states that any rate changes must be quoted with the franchise fees included. You cite footnote 1415 of the Report & Order released May 3, 1993, from the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"). It states, among other things:

"... operation may not quote a rate for cable service in advertisements and other promotional materials that does not include the costs itemized pursuant to Section 622(c)."

The rate notification that was sent out was not an advertisement or other promotional material. Even if it had been deemed to be an advertisement or other promotional material, it was sent out prior to the effective date of the rules on September 1, 1993, and, accordingly, could not have been in violation of such Rules.

In addition, the issues surrounding subscriber bill itemization are still in the decision making process at the FCC and cable operators, like franchising authorities, are waiting for further clarification. As the FCC specifically noted in paragraph 5 of the FCC's First Order on Reconsideration, these issues "must await resolution in the next reconsideration order."

As you know SLTCI could have chosen to satisfy its September 1 rate notice requirements by simply advertising its rates on an alpha-numeric channel on the cable system— on August 31. Instead, SLTCI took the extra time, effort and expense to notify its customers by first class mail.

4940 Delmar Boulevard St. Louis, MO 63108-1659 (314) 361-4331 FAX (314) 361-4566

#### II. The Rate Freeze

You have requested information in order to verify SLTCI's compliance with the federally-imposed revenue freeze. First, let me assure you that SLTCI's regulated revenue is not increasing due to the rate adjustments that have been required by the 1992 Cable Act. In fact, SLTCI's regulated revenue will be reduced on a monthly basis due to the September 1, 1993 rate adjustments. Overall, Tele-Communications, Inc. SLTCI's parent corporation, expects to lose between 140 and 160 million in revenue due to rate re-regulation. In St. Louis, the revenue loss is estimated between 800,000 and 1,000,000 prior to any efforts to recoup this loss. Our revenue-neutral retiering was implemented pursuant to FCC guidelines and encouragement. FCC Order adopted April 8, 1993 (MM Docket 92-266) states at paragraph 8:

In this respect, the freeze was designed so that, as the substantive rate regulation process commences much of the restructuring process will have taken place... And they (rate changes), accordingly, are not prohibited under the <u>freeze</u> order.

### III. Padding of Tiers

In your letter you have stated you are troubled by the inclusion of certain channels on the basic tier. You have made the accusation that this is an evasion under the 1992 Cable Act. The FCC has specifically state that content is irrelevant when calculating number of channels for benchmark purposes. In its Questions and Answers, released on May 13, 1993, question 15 dealt directly with your allegation as follows:

Question: What is the definition of a channel in establishing per "channel" rates?

Answer: A channel is a unit of cable service identified and selected by a channel number or similar designation. Channels are not excluded from consideration based on their contents and may include, for example, directory and menu channels. Given the averaging process involved, no distinctions are made between high or low cost or high or low value channels.

In addition, the channels you stated are padded serve another public policy goal of the 1992 Cable Act. As you are aware, Congress initiated the anti-buy through provision in order that basic service customers would be able to enjoy non-regulated services without the requirement of buying through the expanded basic tier. Congress gave cable operators up to ten years to comply with this provision. SLTCI has elected to comply with this provision by making all of its per channel and pay-per-view services available to basic service-only customers.

In essence, complying with this requirement ten years before compliance is required. The offerings promoted on the sneak preview channel are available to basic service customers for the first time and all customers, including those basic service customers, should have the opportunity to review products available for purchase.

Lastly, you alleged that SLTCI padded its expanded basic tier by including the government access channel 63. As stated above, all channels, irrespective of content, are allowable for use in calculating the per channel benchmark rate. This includes all governmental mandated channels including, but not limited to, public access, educational access, governmental access, leased access or must carry. The requirement that this particular governmental access channel not be delivered to customers is done at the request of the City of St. Louis, and SLTCI should not be penalized from its use in calculation of our benchmark rates because of this franchise requirement.

As you know, many of the FCC rules, including the rules regarding itemization of franchise fees and other franchise requirements, are the subject of motions for reconsideration presently before the FCC. SLTCI is doing its best to comply with the still-changing rules and regulations of the FCC as it has been advised by its FCC counsel. However, as you can fully appreciate, the rules and regulations are quite complex and often inherently inconsistent. The complexities and inconsistencies lead not only to differences of interpretation between cities and cable operator, but to differences between members of the FCC staff as well. I am, of course, happy to discuss these differences in interpretation with you and hope that such differences will soon be clarified by further orders of reconsideration.

SLTCI has not, I am confident, violated any franchise requirement or federal law. If you have specific citations that would suggest otherwise, I will be happy to review them:

Very truly yours, TCI Cablevision of St. Louis

Gregory Schacher

General Manager

cc: Hon. Thomas A. Villa, President Board of Aldermen Robert F. Henry Jr., P.E., President-Board of Public Service Susan Littlefield, Cable Regulatory Administrator Dan DeLaney, TCI Cablevision of Missouri Michael Woods, TCI Division Dir. of Legal Documents Eliehue Brunson, TCI Division Madie Gustafson, TCI Corporate